



The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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"The Steps of a Good Man . . ."

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Good morning, friends. How are you today? Fine, I hope. For one thing, I trust that your faith and confidence is in the Lord and he is your guide from day to day. I believe if the Lord leads a person he will make the right move in life. There is one scripture which says, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way." Psa. 37:23 Here is another verse which, to me, is quite outstanding. In fact I want to speak to you about it for a little while. Listen, "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Heb. 6:12

The first thing to notice. It says to be not slothful. If you are slothful, it is a sure thing you are not going to win the race. Webster gives the definition of sloth as "disinclination to action or labor". So if you are unwilling to act when God says move, you surely will be left behind in his spiritual program.

Do you remember the instance when Peter was in prison? Well, Herod the king killed James, the brother of John with the sword and because he saw that it pleased the Jews he proceeded further to take Peter also. There was Peter in the prison that night. He was sleeping between two soldiers and just as if that was not enough but that they were afraid he was going to escape they had him bound with two chains. And in addition to all of that, keepers or guards we might say, were before the door to keep the prison. What way of escape could you think of to get away from such an imprisonment? Well, God had a way. Just remember with God all things are possible. Things which seem far beyond our reach are

easily accessible to the God of all creation. Read about this incident concerning Peter here in the 12th chapter of Acts. Beginning with the 8th verse it is reported thus: "And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews." Don't you like that? I surely do. It was a wonderful deliverance and an answer to prayer. The Lord preserved Peter's life which was an encouragement to

the church. In fact, it was too good for them to believe at first.

But did you notice this one commandment in particular which the angel gave to Peter, "Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me." What if Peter had said, "Why, I can't get out of here. They have guards at the door." But all he had to do was follow. Well, this is right in line with my text. It is one thing to be not slothful and yet another thing to follow.

So I would say this is the second important step in this text, to be willing to follow.

It is also important who you follow. Some folks are willing to be led, perhaps they are too easily led for that matter. They just follow whoever seems to appeal to them. Dear ones, the Lord wants us to be followers of those who have blazed the gospel trail before us. Jesus is our perfect example and we are to strive to be like him. There are many many others who also have left a pattern worthy for us to trod. But, let us take heed whom we follow.

Here is a little poem. It has five verses but mentions 21 different ones which the scriptures refer to. That ought to be enough examples, should it not?

Let me just list them, then I will give you the poem. There is Daniel, Stephen, John, Moses, Joshua, and Paul.

Then there is Mary, Lydia, Peter, James, and Timothy. After that it tells of Job, David, Samuel, Lazarus, and Isaiah. And don't forget Jacob, Gideon, Joseph, and Abram. Then the last and perfect example is Jesus. But here is the poem:

FOLLOWERS OF THEM

Daniel's wisdom may I know,
Stephen's faith and spirit show;
John's divine communion feel,
Moses' meekness, Joshua's zeal;
Run like the unwearied Paul,
Win the day and conquer all.

Mary's love may I possess,
Lydia's tender-heartedness;
Peter's ardent spirit feel,
James' faith by works reveal;
Like young Timothy, may I
Every sinful passion fly.

Job's submission may I show,
David's true devotion know;
Samuel's call, oh, may I hear!
Lazarus' happy portion share;
Let Isaiah's hallowed fire
All my new-born soul inspire.

Mine be Jacob's wrestling prayer,
Gideon's valiant, steadfast care;
Joseph's purity impart,
Isaac's meditating heart;
Abram's friendship may I prove,
Faithful to the God of love.

Most of all, may I pursue
The example Jesus drew;
By my life and conduct show
How he lived and walked below;
Day by day, through grace restored,
Imitate my blessed Lord.

Friends, don't overlook, however, two requirements if you would follow in the straight and narrow way. One of them is you must have faith. Whether we accept it or not, this is the way God designed his plan. It is a road of faith: faith in God as the creator of the universe, faith in his power to do all things, faith in his wisdom that he knows best for each of us. If we would inherit these promises we must have

faith to believe that the blood of Christ can wash away all of our sins and make us innocent and pure in the sight of God. Yes, we have sinned in the past. The scriptures tell us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but I declare unto you that through faith in Christ you can be delivered from your sins and follow in the steps of the Master. But faith is important. Please don't forget that.

Then there is one more thing necessary if we would maintain our Christian experience. This is patience. Here is what Webster's dictionary has to say about patience. I think it is good. I quote, "manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain; steadfast despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity; able or willing to bear." End of quote.

I fear that many who have seen the need of a change of heart and began a new life in Christ, failed through lack of patience. Perhaps they wanted too many blessings all at one time, perhaps they were unwilling to wait upon God thinking that they were neglected or forgotten.

Dear ones, you're not forgotten. I am glad that God does not forget any of his children. Let us remember that once and always. He may let us go through the furnace of affliction. He may allow us to suffer trials. Oh, may the dear Lord give us grace to bear whatever he sees best. Well, to make it simple and straightforward I fear that some have failed to have patience to endure.

Now listen to the text once again as I give it to you very slowly. "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." May God bless you every one.

Let us pray,

Our Father in heaven,

We realize that we have need of patience that after we've done the will of God we might inherit the promises. Bless each listener of the broadcast. Increase their faith to hold fast to your never failing promises. Help us all to be good witnesses for the Lord in thought, word, and deed, and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Friends, I hope you've enjoyed our little visit. If you are in need of spiritual help and believe that we may in some way assist you, please be free to let us know. This is our calling and we find it very rewarding. When you write address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. Do be with us again next week at this same time. Here is a song. It is an old one but a good one. I like it. "My soul be on thy guard." The Carvers do the singing.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may God richly bless each and every one of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

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A CHRISTIAN MAN'S LIFE

A Christian man's life is laid in the loom of time to a pattern which he does not see, but God does; and his heart is a shuttle. On one side of the loom is sorrow, and on the other is joy; and the shuttle, struck alternately by each, flies back and forth, carrying the thread, which is white or black, as the pattern needs; and, in the end, when God shall lift up the finished garment, and all its changing hues shall glance out, it will then appear that the deep and dark colors were as needful to beauty as the bright and high colors.

Testimonies

From Ark: "I do enjoy the Mission Trail . . . The good testimonies mean so much to me, but nothing means so much to me as my dear savior and the determination I have to follow Jesus all the way. I am not very well, can hardly get out of my wheel chair and this throat condition at times makes me nervous. My desire is to live for the dear Lord until He calls me home to glory. He means everything to me. Do please remember me and my dear lost children."

--Sister Ruth Scalf

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From Mo: 'Dear Bro. Willie and family and all of God's people everywhere, in Jesus sweet name I greet all and pray the dear Lord will open up the windows of heaven and pour out the Holy Ghost on each and everyone's head . . . It makes my heart ache to see the sin of today and people who won't pay any attention to what's ahead of them . . . Please pray for me.'

--W. D. Harmon

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From S. Da: "Greetings of tender Christian love in the precious holy name of our blessed Jesus. It has been so long since I have written. My afflictions are so very great, but I must not longer let them deter me from writing to express my gratitude for the comfort, help, and consolation I receive weekly from the good messages and testimonies in the little Mission Trail. You cannot conceive of the blessing they are to one isolated and afflicted as I am at present and they increase as the days go by, but the Lord so sweetly helps me. I realize as never before how His abundant grace is sufficient, 'My grace is sufficient for thee and my strength is made perfect in weakness' O, my soul was so very very blessed to see you at the Guthrie Camp-

meeting with the saints there, the sweet spirit of unity and loving christian fellowship. The oneness of all the dear saints truly lifted our souls to heavenly places in the Lord Jesus. The . . . message in the July 16, Mission Trail, 'Faint Not', brought tears to my eyes. It was just what my soul needed, encouragement, for I was growing faint in body, and that affects the spirit at times, but my determination is to be completely abandoned to God's precious will, and I was truly in need of that encouragement. O, may the dear Lord keep you strong and of good courage in the work He has given you. Pray for me, and I thank you all for your prayers. Lovingly."

--Sis. McFarling

THE FEW

The easy roads are crowded and the level roads are jammed;
The pleasant little rivers with the drifting folk are crammed.

But off yonder where it's rocky where you get a better view,
You will find the ranks are thinning and the travelers are few.

But the steeps that call for courage and the task that's hard to do,
In the end result in glory for the never-wavering few.

--Sel. by Olive McFarling

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From Calif: "'Others Lord, yes, others, and none of self, for me, Let me live for others, That I may live for thee'
Psalms 19:14 is my daily prayer. I love God's word. A favorite verse, Psalms 88:11. Praying God's rich blessings on your work. Sincerely,"

--Mrs. Josie P. Stone

P. S. I was born Sept. 4th, 1871. A long time to live, isn't it?

National Campmeeting Report

It is not unusual in the dry, hot month of July for the saints to pray for rain that the weather may be cooled in the Ozark country around Neosho, Mo. while the national campmeeting of the Church of God is in progress, but this summer things were different! Rain came the first day of the meeting and the blessings of the Lord continued to flow down upon the camp of the saints. Much work had been done in cleaning the grounds and buildings for the crowd which was to follow. The new addition to the dining hall was hastily put in shape for use during the 10 days. The installation of the large dishwasher was not complete and ready for service until after the meeting had started. This was mainly because a new motor had been ordered from the factory. On Monday the motor came and the dishwasher was put into service. It did indeed prove a blessing and labor saver. The attendance was good. Some came from the north, south, east and west. But most of all we were glad for the presence of the Lord. With the coming of those who were dedicated to the cause of spreading the truth came also the Holy Spirit to work upon the hearts and convict the sinners of their evil ways. Often at the close of the preaching numbers of those who felt their need of God, or a closer walk with Him, would come making their way to the altar where they found freedom from influences which so often hindered them in doing the will of God! Different preachers used many passages of scriptures in declaring the Bible teaching for which the saints stand. States as far away as Oregon, California, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and South Carolina were represented. Yes, and many others besides! One very interesting experience was the missionary service on Wednesday afternoon. The young man from Mexico spoke, Brother Irineo Rama. His message was translated for the audience by Bro. James Huskey who interpreted for him. He told how his life had been threatened at one time by a group of soldiers. They came to his house with rifles

and wanted a large sum of money. He went and got some gospel tracts and passed them out to them. It seems they forgot they had come to do him harm and went away pleased! The Lord had indeed been working upon the enemies of the truth which this young brother had been taking to his native land. One man in the community realized that he no longer needed his large idol and threw it into his attic. While there is much opposition and persecution some have been converted. The foundation work has been laid for the erection of a chapel in the state of Michoacan. We know there are many isolated saints who had not the privilege of attending the meeting. We hope this report will in a small way bring you some of the crumbs which fell from the Master's table as the children of God feasted on the Word given under the anointing of the Spirit! We hope that the seed of the gospel which was preached during the Monark campmeeting will fall into good and honest hearts and spring forth, bringing fruit to the glory of God. Who of us can tell how many more years we will be permitted to have this annual campmeeting under the pavilion? Another thing worthy of notice was the way in which those who worked in the kitchen cooperated to get the meals ready for serving to the many in attendance. Work was divided up each day with different states and individuals helping as the need arose. Some folks we met for the first time. One of these was a young man who was born in Austria. He had lived in Peru for 13 years and then came to the states, where he has been going to school. He came in contact with the saints and is now saved and living for the Lord. Others we saw once again whom we have known and loved through the years. As the scripture says: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments" Psa. 133:1-2.

